

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205073

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MMOL, IR

SUBJECT: AUTOMATED LOGISTICS PROGRAM FOR IIN

REF: CNO 111555Z AUG 78

1. CNO REFTEL ADDRESSES IIN INTEREST IN POSSIBLY UPGRADING LOGISTICS SYSTEM TO INCLUDE AUTOMATED ELEMENTS OR INTRODUCING A FULLY AUTOMATED SYSTEM. IN THE PAST, USN ADVISORS HAVE CAREFULLY STEERED IIN TOWARDS MANUAL SYSTEMS WHICH WERE WITHIN IRANIAN MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES AND WHICH WELL SERVED IIN NEEDS. WITH SPRUANCE SHIPS AND SUBMARINES ON HORIZON, IIN MAY HAVE REACHED STAGE OF LOGISTICS
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COMPLEXITY THAT REQUIRES SOME AUTOMATION. DEPENDING ON EMBASSY VIEWS, TEAM HEADED BY RADM FROST WOULD ASSESS IIN REQUIREMENTS AND MOST PRACTICAL APPROACH TO LOGISTICS PROBLEMS. WE UNDERSTAND CONCEPT FOR TEAM IS TO PROPOSE ONLY MINIMAL AUTOMATION AND CAREFULLY SCHEDULED INCREMENTS ATTUNED TO IIN NEEDS AND CAPABILITIES.

2. NEVERTHELESS, BEFORE EMBARKING ON A PROCESS THAT IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES HAS LED FROM SURVEY REPORT TO COMMERCIAL PROPOSAL TO FINAL PROGRAMS FAR TOO AMBITIOUS FOR IRANIAN NEEDS AND CAPABILITIES, WE WOULD LIKE EMBASSY'S VIEWS, DRAWING ON ALL ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION AND COVERING FOLLOWING POINTS AND ANY OTHERS YOU CONSIDER PERTINENT:

A. HOW WELL IS PRESENT IIN LOGISTICS SYSTEM FUNCTIONING? WHAT IS OUTLOOK FOR FURTHER PROGRESS WITHOUT NEW PROGRAM TO UPGRADE OR AUTOMATE CERTAIN COMPONENTS?

B. GIVEN DIVERSE NATIONAL SOURCES OF IIN EQUIPMENT, CAN A US-DEVELOPED, AUTOMATED LOGISTICS SYSTEM EFFECTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL MANAGEMENT OF IIN LOGISTICS?

C. WHAT IS IIN CAPABILITY TO HANDLE LOGISTICS NOW WITHOUT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND WHAT MIGHT BE ANTICIPATED NUMBER AND DURATION OF FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN PROPOSED NEW PROGRAM?

D. WHAT KIND OF COMMITMENT, IF ANY, DO WE HAVE TO IIN TO ASSIST WITH IMPROVEMENTS IN LOGISTICS? HOW STRONG IS IIN INTEREST IN THIS PROJECT?

E. TO WHAT EXTENT WILL ADDED AUTOMATION FACILITATE USN RESPONSE TO IIN SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS, SUCH AS REQUISITION TRACKING, CONFIGURATION CONTROL, TECHNICAL DATA EXCHANGE, CONFIDENTIAL

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ETC.?

F. ARE THERE APPLICABLE LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM PEACE LOG?

3. IN SUMMARY, LET'S STEP BACK AND TAKE A WELL-ROUNDED LOOK AT NEED, FEASIBILITY, OBLIGATION AND WHERE WE MIGHT BE HEADED ON THIS PROPOSAL BEFORE PUTTING A FOOT IN THE WATER. VANCE

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